

Serial No. 10/765,401

REMARKS

The Office action dated April 7, 2006 and the cited references have been carefully considered.

Status of the Claims

Claims 12-23 are pending. Claims 1-11 and 23-29 are withdrawn.

Claims 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Broer (U.S. Patent 4,718,748). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 13-17 and 19-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 13-17 and 19-23 would be allowable.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Broer. Claims 12 and 18 are canceled. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claim 13-17 and 19-23

Claim 13 is rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 12. Claims 14-17 are amended to depend from claim 13. Claims 19 is rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 18. Claims 20-23 are amended to depend from claim 19. Therefore, claims 13-17 and 19-23 are now in condition for allowance. Early allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Toan P. Vo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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